PRAYER:
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR
WILLIAM LEFTWICH,
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

February 23, 1995
Dirksen Building, Chicago

John M. Buchanan, Pastor
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Chicago, Illinois

Almighty and eternal God, you are the creator of us all, the Lord of all - all time, all nations, all people. We are grateful for our nation, for its history, for its struggle to establish liberty and justice, to defend rights and opportunities for all its citizens. We remember with gratitude those who led us in the past, whose courage and vision and faith inspired others to value independence, freedom, union.

We remember with gratitude those who fought and died fifty years ago serving country. And we remember with deep gratitude men and women who serve in the Armed Forces today, stationed around the world in lonely and dangerous outposts.

We remember with gratitude our elected officials, pray your blessings on President Clinton and all who serve in government.

We thank you for the life and witness of Bill Leftwich and ask your blessing on him and on Maxine and all their loved ones. Give him courage, and vision for his task - which reflects this nation's highest and holiest aspirations. Give him stamina and strength for routine tasks and make him, in all things, worthy of the high trust which now is his. And, O God, give him a sense of a job well done, and peace, at the end of the day.

Now bless us all, giving us the gifts we need to serve you and our neighbors, with faithfulness and energy and intelligence, and imagination, all our days.

Amen.